16. (New) An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 14 operably linked to a promotor.

17. (New) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 14 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

18. (New) A host cell recombinant for the polynucleotide of claim 14.

19. (New) A non-human transgenic animal recombinant for the polynucleotide of claim 14.

20. (New) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence of an open reading frame of the human cDNA of deposited clone 625004_188-15-4-0-H6-F, wherein said nucleotide sequence spans no supplementary nucleotides between the thymidine at position 766 and the cytosine at position 767 of SEQ ID NO:57.

A1 cont

21. (New) A vCOL16A1 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:58, or a biologically active fragment thereof spanning no supplementary amino-acids between the glycine at position 97 and the proline at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:58.

22. (New) The polypeptide of claim 21, wherein said polypeptide is a full length polypeptide shown at positions 1 to 163 of SEQ ID NO:58.

23. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 21 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

24. (New) A polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 20.

25. (New) A method of making a vCOL16A1 polypeptide, said method comprising:

a) providing a population of cells comprising a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 21, operably linked to a promoter;

b) culturing said population of cells under conditions conducive to the production of said polypeptide within said cells; and

c) purifying said polypeptide from said population of cells.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:57, or a fragment thereof.

27. (New) An antibody that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 21, wherein the specific binding of said antibody to said polypeptide depends on the absence of supplementary amino-acids between the glycine at position 97 and the proline at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:58.

28. (New) A method of binding the polypeptide of claim 21 to the antibody of claim 27, comprising contacting said antibody with said polypeptide under conditions in which said antibody can specifically bind to said polypeptide.

A) Cont

29. (New) A method of determining whether a vCOL16A1 gene is expressed within a mammal, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a biological sample from said mammal;

b) contacting said biological sample with either of:

i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide of claim 14 and that spans no supplementary nucleotides between the thymidine at position 766 and the cytosine at position 767 of SEQ ID NO:57; or

ii) a polypeptide that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 21; and

c) detecting the presence or absence of hybridization between said polynucleotide and an RNA species within said sample, or the presence or absence of binding of said polypeptide to a protein within said sample;

wherein a detection of said hybridization or of said binding indicates that said vCOL16A1 gene is expressed within said mammal.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said polynucleotide is a primer, and wherein said hybridization is detected by detecting the presence of an amplification product comprising the sequence of said primer.